

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /068 W

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R 270839Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4425

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, BX, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE CLAIM TO SABAH

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2365

1. HASHIM TAIB, MALAYSIAN COUNSELLOR, TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 26 HIS MINISTRY WAS VERY CURIOUS ABOUT VALENCIA'S DAILY EXPRESS COMMENTARY ON SABAH (IN ADDITION TO APRIL 18 REMARKS) HIS APRIL 20 ASSERTION THAT "IMPROVED CLIMATE OF SABAH-PHILIPPINE NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS... SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A MEETING AMONG PHILIPPINE AND MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS FOR A RESOLUTION OF ALL PENDING IRRITANTS." HIS MINISTRY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A "TRIAL BALLOON." HASHIM TAIB SAID HE WAS URGING CAUTION IN INTERPRETING VALENCIA'S REMARKS.

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2. COMMENT: VALENCIA'S REMARKS UNDOUBTEDLY EXPRESSIVE

OF CONSIDERABLE PHILIPPINE JUBILATION AT DEFEAT OF MUSTAPHA. BOTH MUSTAPHA'S DEFEAT AND ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS OF FUAD STEPHENS HAVE RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. ALTHOUGH GOP COULD BE CONSIDERING MOVES ON SABAH CLAIM (WE HAVE NO INDICATION THEY ARE), THOSE MOVES WOULD (A) PRESUMABLY SURFACE THROUGH MORE AUTHORITY CHANNELS THAN VALENCIA, (B) PROBABLY INVOLVE INDONESIA AS INTERMEDIARY AND (C) NOT BE A THROW AWAY BUT WOULD ENTAIL ATTEMPT TO GET SOME KIND OF QUID-PRO-QUO RELATING TO ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENTS. SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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